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7. *Courage means doing something even though it can be difficult and fearsome.*

Climbing Mount Everest, facing your greatest foe, risking the well being of oneself for that of others, and even running through the dark at night (despite your fears of what may lurk within) are all acts of immense courage. Courage is viewed as a positive attribute, forcing us out of our comfort zone and dropping us into a situation of immense discomfort. Even the will to do what goes against one’s benefit is considered to be courageous. If courage is not committing to something, despite it being difficult and fearsome, then what is it? Well, it is the opposite of cowardice, which is when your own fear and self-concern override any course of action that may serve for the benefit of others. In facing your fears and undergoing this trouble, you are promoting this courage and selflessness for the sake of others. In the Salem Witch Trials, much courage was required of those whom were accused of witchcraft and righteously refused to plead guilty. All of them feared for their future and how near its end lurked. They were forced to suffer through this process and be convicted to hang, willingly undergoing this all for the benefit of others. You may be wondering how people were to benefit from their hanging, but it is truly quite blatant if you were to simply stop for a brief moment and think about it. In their death, the falsehood of their accusations was exposed; therefore promoting revolt of the citizens against the courts corrupted rulings. This assisted in putting an end to the dreaded Salem Witch Trials and preserving the lives of countless innocent citizens that may have been accused of conducting witchcraft otherwise. Another more relatable example of courage may be that of a firefighter. Nearly every day they risk their lives in saving and preserving the integrity of that of others. Do you not think that many of these men fear death? Of course they do, no one wishes to die, and many likely even have families of their own which they must support. In simply applying themselves to their job they are risking so much, and all for the good of society. Although, courage may not solely lead to positive repercussions, for it takes courage for a criminal to pull the trigger on a police officer, weighing in the consequences that shall result of their decision, although not for the sake of society, but for their own. Courage, no matter its effects, has to do with the will to endure something undesirable, even risky. Many of us lack an understanding of this important attribute, consolidating ourselves with the idea that we shall never be forced to place it into practice; but when thinking this always remember, if you were ever scared of doing absolutely anything, and yet did it anyway, then you are courageous. Whether it be holding a spider despite suffering from arachnophobia, or however minor the decision you made may be, you are, in fact, courageous.